Regional Investment Initiative

Implementation Full Application FAQ #2

Posted on December 17, 2025

- **Can you confirm the Full Application submission deadline?**

  Yes. Deadline for the Full Application is Friday, January 16, 2026 by 5:00 p.m. PT.

- **The instructions on pages 15/16 are contradictory: If we <u>are</u> sure, based on the nature of the proposed work, that our project <u>is not</u> a "public work", do we still need to go through the time-consuming process of seeking determination from DIR?**

  As indicated in the Full Application, a legally binding determination would be necessary to confirm proposed work is not a public work, or the entity can proceed with application of prevailing wage laws and stipulations.

- **For our cluster's coalition, four regions were documented. A fifth region that is contiguous to the original four would be a logical partner for our multi-region, statewide coalition. Can this fifth region be included in our regional coalition and integrated in the full application?**

  An additional region may be added to the regional coalition, however a "new project" not identified in the Pre-Application is not allowed to be added to the Full Application. Reminder: Any partners included in the coalition will provide a "partner" letter outlining how they will collaborate to implement the project should it be awarded funds.

- **Will the projects be reviewed as a cluster? We know that each project must submit their own application as will be funded on their own merits, but will reviewers evaluate all the projects within a cluster at the same time/as a package?**

  Projects will be reviewed as individual projects within the cluster. The cluster will be considered collectively to determine how it advances the growth of the target sector.

- **May two projects within the same cluster secure partnership agreement letters from the same partner? Is there a maximum number of partnership agreement letters?**

Yes, partnership agreement letters are a required part of the Full Application. Each application must include a minimum of 3 letters as referenced on page 20. Projects within the same cluster may secure partnership letters from the same partner and the letter should outline resources the partner will deliver to implement each project.

- **Are budget totals for each project submitted in the Pre-Application questionnaire and the contact form binding for the final proposal? Do we have the flexibility to adjust these amounts as the final budgets are fleshed out and built?**

No, final budgets for the Full Application can vary from the total provided in the prior questionnaire. NOTE: the final budget for an awarded project may also be adjusted by GO-Biz as the contract agreement is finalized.

- **For the License, page 18, section of the Full Application, we interpret it to mean that the Awardee, (cluster lead) would obtain ownership of any intellectual property (IP) developed under the projects. A potential partner states that it seems odd that the cluster lead (in our case, a city) would obtain ownership of IP rather than the inventing entity with the start-up having rights to practice or even exclusive rights. Can you confirm that we are interpreting this correctly? If we are, can you clarify why this is?**

Award selections will be in accordance with the individual Full Applications submitted by each project lead. Applicable project leads, or their designated fiscal agent, would enter into the grant agreement with the State and be the Awardee to which licensing would be retained.

Implementation Full Application Office Hours

December 18, 2025

- **Are letters from project leads from the other projects within our cluster not appropriate or should they come from organizations not explicitly involved in our cluster? Can a a single organization provide letters to multiple projects within the cluster?**

  A single organization can provide letters to multiple projects. Review the criteria for Exhibit C listed on page 20-21 of the Full Application. Partnership letters should outline what the partner will provide to help implement the project.

- **Concerning a 10% cap on indirect costs (IDC). Our institute has a negotiated IDC rate, is it permissible to use that rate in this budget?**

  California Model Agreement (CMA) will be utilized unless an exemption is sought and granted. However, 10% indirect costs will remain the cap.

- **Must your Lead applicant be different from your project lead? Does it matter?**

  The lead applicant be a lead of one or more of the projects within the cluster. Each project within the cluster should maintain communication with the lead applicant for cohesion.

- **There is very little information about what is expected for Appendix 1. Specifically what documentation is required to document and provide proof of compliance for permit and site information. Also, if the permit has not been approved YET what would you like us to submit?**

  The Implementation Grant is intended for projects that are "ready to go." Examples of proof of compliance include environmental review findings, a permit issued by the landowner or the jurisdictional authority.

- **Just to clarify after submitting the application then if you are invited to "Pitch Sessions" does that mean you are getting awarded or is that another phase to then determine awardees.**

  Invitation to the pitch session is a final step in determining the awardees. Participation does not guarantee an award will be granted.

- **Is it possible for two projects from an approved cluster to merge into one project if the project would be strengthened and outcomes align?**

Two projects may merge into one if each of the two projects were originally listed in the project cluster that was advanced to submit a full application. New projects may not be introduced in this round and may be means for disqualification.

- **How about the opposite of that? Uncoupling, divorcing projects combined in the pre-app?**

  If the project that was submitted as part of the project cluster outlined elements and descriptions of "both" projects, then the separation may occur. As previously noted, "new" projects may not be introduced in this round and may be means for disqualification. Reminder that a cluster may not exceed 8 projects.

- **The FAQ mentions the grant would be reimbursable basis -- would there be any opportunity for an advance to be requested at the outset? If so, what are the parameters there?**

  This grant will not be eligible for advance payment. Reimbursement may be requested upon completion of approved deliverables with a 10% payment withholding to be issued along with the final invoice. See item 5 of the grant operational toolkit for invoicing and payment procedures.

- **Will you be sharing the slide deck?**

  Yes, the deck from the Implementation Full Application Office Hours can be accessed here.

- **Can tenant improvements be included in the budget?**

  Yes.

- **Is it allowable for the bundle of sub-projects within a Project deviate from what was submitted in the pre-application, e.g., a sub-project originally included in the Project bundle is not proposed in the final application?**

  No. New projects proposed in the Full Application would be means for disqualification.

- **Could we get clarification on the role of "additional partners"? Many additional partners see themselves as "project leads" and want to submit their own form, budget, etc., despite being listed as "additional partners" in the pre-app?**

  A Full Application should be representative of the project within the stated page limits outlined. Projects selected for awards must be led by an entity that meets the

criteria listed in the RFP on page 6. Additional partners, sub-grantees, or sub-contractors do not have the same limitation.

- **The period of the performance begins October 2026?**

  Yes, we are projecting that grant agreements will be executed by October 2026.

- **Is there further breakdown available for the Project Narrative portion of the scoring rubric? i.e., are the 5 subcategories/bullet points (Objectives/Vision, Promotion of Industry Growth, etc.) within the larger section weighted equally?**

  The information provided in the Full Application is the matrix available for your review.

- **One of our project leads encountered issues with some of the standard state forms required, when they saved the form - it became password protected. Is this something with the form(s)? Or is this on the user end?**

  The required state forms will be redistributed to ensure proper access.

- **Just to triple check can the Lead entity provide a letter of support or it should be completely new collaborators?**

  The Full Application requires partnership letters, not general letters of support. Lead entity can provide a partnership letter as appropriate. Review the criteria for Exhibit C listed on page 20-21 of the Full Application.

- **Can partners include other project leads within the cluster?**

  Yes.

- **Are standing up revolving loan funds as part of an accelerator program eligible?**

  Yes.

Full Timeline of All Grant Related Activities

Application Phase

- Office Hours: December 18, 2025 – 11:30 AM PT
- Full Application Due: January 16, 2026 – 5:00 PM PT

Selection and Award Phase

- Mandatory Pitch (for invited applicants): April 2026, in Sacramento
- Award Announcements: By mid-August 2026
- Grant Agreements Executed: October 2026 (Funds cannot be obligated before execution)

Implementation Phase (Period of Performance - POP)

- Start Date: Targeting October 1, 2026
- First Deliverable (Project Implementation Plan): Due 30 days after start

POP Duration: 24 months (through ~September/October 2028)